

Remarks

This communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed on July 20, 2007, in which all pending claims 1-29 were subject to restriction. In particular, the position has been taken that the claims are directed to four inventions:

Group I, claims 1-16 & 22-25 (designated in the Office Action as "1-6 & 22-25");

Group II, claims 17-21;

Group III, claims 26-28 (designated in Office Action as "36-28"); and

Group IV, claim 29.

Group I is elected with traverse.

The restriction requirement between Groups I-IV is traversed on the grounds that no serious burden on the Examiner exists. If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the entire application must be examined on the merits, even though it includes claims directed to distinct or independent inventions, as stated in MPEP § 803. Groups I-IV are sufficiently related such that a thorough search for the subject matter of the elected invention would encompass a search for the subject matter of the non-elected invention. To avoid duplicative examination and unnecessary delay and expense, examination on the merits of the entire application, including all of claims 1-29, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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